

13th November 1922]

A.—(1) The total number of elective seats on the district board of South Arcot is 30 and the number that has to be filled up by the taluk boards is 25 as shown below :—

Name of taluk boards.						Number of members.
Tindivanam	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tirukkōyilūr	..	..	..	..	..	6
Chidambaram	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cuddalore	..	..	..	..	..	4
Vriddhāchalam	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total						25

(2) Till April 1922 the thirty elective seats were held by three ex officio members, i.e., non-official presidents of taluk boards, and twenty-seven members elected by the five taluk boards. In May 1922, when the taluk boards were reconstituted under the new Act, inasmuch as the Government did not reserve to themselves the power to nominate the president of any of these five taluk boards, the number of ex officio members who should be counted towards the elective seats rose to 5 and only 25 members were returnable by the taluk boards. The reduction from 27 to 25 in the number of members to be elected involved a redistribution of these seats and pending the order of Government on this redistribution the Government understand that the President, as a matter of prudence, directed each taluk board to elect one member less than it ought to, so that even if Government should sanction a redistribution other than what was suggested by the President, the elections already held might not be affected.

(3) The answer is in the negative.

Additional Subordinate Judge's Court at Cocanada.

451 Q.—Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the Government contemplate the removal of the additional Subordinate Judge's Court now at Cocanada to Rajahmundry, investing the same with territorial jurisdiction over Ramachandrapuram and Rajahmundry taluks;

(2) whether it is not a fact that 87 out of 117 villages of Ramachandrapuram taluk have been always within the jurisdiction of the Cocanada Subordinate Judge's Court;

(3) whether the Government are aware that the litigants of the Ramachandrapuram taluk feel Cocanada to be more convenient by reason of

(i) its easier access;

(ii) Cocanada being the centre of export trade;

(iii) greater accommodation and better sanitation;

(4) whether it is a fact that the Government contemplate a redistribution of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari and Kistna districts and the same will necessitate a re-adjustment of civil jurisdiction;

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(5) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to divest the Cocanada Subordinate Judge's Court of its appellate jurisdiction over the Cocanada and Peddapuram Munsifs and to vest the same in the District Court.

(6) whether it is a fact that ever since its establishment the Cocanada Subordinate Judge's Court has been exercising appellate jurisdiction over the Cocanada and Peddapuram Munsifs; and

(7) whether the Government are aware that the litigants of Cocanada taluk who go to Cocanada for original suits will find it inconvenient to go to Rajahmundry for presentation of appeals?

A.—(1) & (5) Proposals in the sense referred to by the hon. Member are under consideration.

(2), (3) & (7) The Government have no information.

(4) Yes.

(6) From 1875 to 1915, the permanent sub-court at Cocanada was exercising appellate jurisdiction over the Peddapuram and Cocanada Munsifs. In 1915 the appellate jurisdiction over the Peddapuram Munsif was transferred to the temporary additional sub-court at Cocanada, which was newly established there.

Irrigation schemes in Kollegal taluk.

452 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(a) to give a list of all irrigation schemes for the taluk of Kollegal in the district of Coimbatore pending either before the Chief Engineer or before the Government with the possible cost of each; whether there is any chance of any of these schemes being taken up soon; and

(b) to state—

(1) what is the average rainfall of the Kollegal taluk for the last five years and what is the total area of the taluk and the area under wet cultivation; and

(2) whether it is a fact that for the same river which for some distance forms the boundary between the Kollegal taluk and Mysore Province and which runs afterwards in the Kollegal taluk itself, there are some anicuts which take water for the Mysore Province but not even one for the Kollegal taluk; if that is so, what are the reasons for the same?

A.—(a) No irrigation schemes are now pending with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation or with the Government. The hon. Member's attention is, however, invited to the answer given to question No. 1307 asked at the second session of the Council.

(b) (1) The average rainfall in the Kollegal taluk, for the five years ending 1921, is 31.33 inches.

The total area of the taluk is 1,076 square miles, and the area under wet cultivation, 6,436 acres.

(2) The hon. Member presumably refers to the river Swarnavati, otherwise called Honnolai. Irrigation on the Mysore side is at present being carried on by means of earthen bunds thrown across the river. As stated in the answer given to question No. 231 asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 18th February 1921, the investigation of the scheme to utilize the waters of the river on the British side has not yet been taken up.